



State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

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COLUMBIA 29211

June 21, 2010

The Honorable Robert W. Harrell, Jr.
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Post Office Box 11867
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Mr. Speaker and Members of the House:

I am hereby vetoing and returning without my approval H. 3975, R. 337, which exempts certain military personnel from the state's hunter's education requirements and creates a lifetime non-resident hunting license.

This bill contains two sections. The first section exempts military personnel who have received rifle marksmanship training during their military career from having to complete the state's hunter's education training. We are not concerned with the first section of H. 3975 because we believe that the military's marksmanship training is sufficiently similar to the state's training classes – in fact it is far superior.

Instead, our concern with H. 3975 centers on the bill's second section that was added in the Senate, which creates a special, lifetime hunting license for qualifying nonresident hunters. Anyone who is not a resident of South Carolina may obtain an annual hunting license from the Department of Natural Resources for a fee of \$125. However, the law allows only South Carolina residents to obtain lifetime licenses. H. 3975 changes this framework by allowing certain nonresidents to obtain a lifetime license, but the qualifications for obtaining the license are so irregular that we cannot believe this section was drafted in response to broad concerns of people in or outside the state.

In order for a nonresident to obtain the lifetime license anticipated in this bill, he or she must satisfy the normal licensure requirements, must have been born in South Carolina, and must have owned real estate in South Carolina for at least five years prior to applying for the license. Additionally, H. 3975 makes the license available only from July 1, 2010, through September 30, 2010. Our understanding is that the bizarre combination of the birthplace and property-ownership requirements and the unusual application period was drafted, not because it represents a good policy, but because one senator is trying to do a favor for one of his out-of-state friends. We believe this kind of favoritism is an abuse of the legislative power, and we simply cannot support this bill.

For the reasons stated above, I am hereby vetoing and returning without my approval H. 3975, R. 337.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford".

Mark Sanford